

OPINION 965

HYPOSMOCOMA BUTLER, 1881 (INSECTA, LEPIDOPTERA):
VALIDATION OF EMENDATION FROM *HYPOSMOCHOMA*

RULING.—(1) Under the plenary powers the emendation to *Hyposmocomma* of *Hyposmochoma* Butler, 1881, is hereby validated.

(2) The generic name *Hyposmocomma* Butler, 1881 (gender: feminine), type-species, by monotypy, *Hyposmocomma blackburnii* Butler, 1881, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology with the Name Number 1946.

(3) The specific name *blackburnii* Butler, 1881, as published in the binomen *Hyposmocomma blackburnii* (type-species of *Hyposmocomma* Butler, 1881) is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2453.

(4) The generic name *Hyposmochoma* Butler, 1881 (Ruled under the plenary powers in (1) above to be an incorrect original spelling for *Hyposmocomma*) is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology with the Name Number 1995.

HISTORY OF THE CASE (Z.N.(S.) 1853)

The present case was submitted to the office of the Commission by Dr. Elwood C. Zimmerman in July 1968. Dr. Zimmerman's application was sent to the printer on 29 August 1968 and published on 17 January 1969 in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **25** : 176-177. Public Notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the present case was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to the other prescribed serial publications (Constitution Art. 12b; *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **21** : 184) and to eight entomological serials. The application was supported by Lt.-Col. C. F. Cowan (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **27** : 5) and Prof. J. Linsley Gressitt.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 29 October 1970 the Members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (70)34 either for or against the proposal set out in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **25** : 177. Because of a strike of British postal workers the voting period was extended to 31 March 1971, and on that date the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative votes—seventeen (17), received in the following order: Melville, Mayr, Lemche, Holthuis, Simpson, Brinck, Obruchev, Jaczewski, Eisenmann, Bonnet, Vokes, Tortonese, Starobogatov, Ride, Alvarado, Binder, Forest.

Negative votes—one (1): Sabrosky.

Voting Papers not returned—two (2): Kraus, Munroe.

Commissioner Sabrosky made the following comment in returning his vote:

"The case does involve many names, but very little usage or literature. I am told that probably 95 per cent of the species are known only from their original descriptions, as far as published literature is concerned. Zimmerman's forthcoming revision could well be only the second published reference for a high proportion of the species.

"Moreover the situation is not as extreme as pictured. It is somewhat of an exaggeration to say that if the spelling *Hypsmochoma* were used 'then the gender of more than 300 species-group names will have to be altered'. There are numerous names like *adjacens*, *evanescens*, *discolor*, *montivolans*, *somatodes*, etc., which have the same form in all three genders. Nouns in apposition do not change, e.g., Walsingham's *lucifer*, *lunifer*, *ensifer*, and *flavicosta*. Specific names in the genitive case do not change, hence the type-species, *blackburnii*, and such names as *haleakalae* remain unchanged. Finally, there is the large number of names that end in *-ella*—over 50 in Walsingham (1907) alone—and many of these are nouns and would remain unchanged.

"I am far more sympathetic to Cowan's first statement (*Bull.* 26 : 118) than to this application. Emenders have caused unnecessary difficulties. It seems to me possible, and reasonable to believe, that Butler really did have in mind 'choma', as referring to 'a heap or mound' of hairs, in writing *Hypsmochoma*, a name which would have had the linguistic virtue of being all Greek, and not the mixture of Latin and Greek in Walsingham's emendation *Hypsmocoma*."

ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references for names placed on Official Lists and Index by the Ruling given in the present Opinion:

blackburnii, *Hypsmocoma*, Butler, 1881, *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (5) 7 (40): 400
Hypsmochoma Butler, 1881, *loc. cit.* : 399, an incorrect original spelling for *Hypsmocoma* Walsingham, 1907, *Fauna Hawaïiensis* 1 (5) : 549–550

CERTIFICATE

I certify that the votes cast on Voting Paper (70)34 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that Voting Paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 965.

R. V. MELVILLE

Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

London

7 June 1971